THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Tiger Poaching in Similipal Reserve

3425. SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the large scale tiger poaching in Orissa's Similipal Reserve, the largest tiger sanctuary of the State;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to prevent the large scale poaching; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c)As informed by the State, no such report has come to light.

Increase in Recorded Forest Area

3426. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Recorded Forest Area (RFA) had increased to 77474000 hectare in 2003;

(b) if so, the reason of such increase;

(c) the process by which land is notified as Recorded Forest Area (RFA);

(d) the break-up of this increase district-wise; and

(e) the type of land use on this newly categorized Recorded Forest Area (RFA) prior to its declaration as RFA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Receded Forest Area (RFA) increased to 77474000 hectares as per the "State of Forest Report (SFR)-2003". Recorded Forest Area (RFA) is the geoyraphical area recorded as forest in Government records". The increase/

decrease in Recorded Forest Area (RFA) is due to inclusion/exclusion of forest land by notification by the State/Union Territory (UT) Government.

(c) The land is notified as RFA under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the various State/UT Forest Acts.

(d) As the increase/decrease in Recorded Forest Area (RFA) is a con-tinuing process, the statistics of such increase/decrease district-wise are maintained by the respective State Government. The details of State-wise increase in Recorded ForestArea (RFA) as per the 'State of Forest Report (SFR)-2003' are given in Statement enclosed. *(See* below)

(e) Once a land is notified as a forest area its custody vests with the Government and its use may be only for forestry activities. However, prior to its notification as such, the land is generally used for both forestry and non-forestry activities.

Statement

State-wise increase in Reacorded Froest Area

(Area in Kms)

SI. No.	State/UT	Total Recorded Forest Area (RFA) as per the 'State of Forest Report-2003'	Increase/Decrease in Recorded Forest Area as compared to 'State of Forest Report-2001'
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63,821	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	51,540	0
3.	Assam	27,018	0
4.	Bihar	6,473	395
5.	Chhattisgarh	59,772	487
6.	Delhi	85	0
7.	Goa	1,224	0
8.	Gujarat	19,113	114
9.	Haryana	1,558	7

1 2	3	4
10. Himachal Pradesh	37,033	0
11. Jammu & Kashmir	20,230	0
12. Jharkhand	23,605	0
13. Karnataka	43,084	4,360
14. Kerala	11,268	47
15. Madhya Pradesh	95,221	0
16. Maharashtra	61,939	0
17. Manipur	17,418	0
18. Meghalaya	9,496	0
19. Mizoram	16,717	782
20. Nagaland	8,629	0
21. Orissa	58,136	1
22. Punjab	3,084	25
23. Rajasthan	32,488	-6
24. Sikkim	5,841	76
25. Tamil Nadu	22,877	-6
26. Tripura	6,293	0
27. Uttar Pradesh	16,826	0
28. Uttaranchal	34,662	0
29. West Bengal	11,879	0
30. Andaman & Nicobar	7,171	0
31. Chandigarh	34	2
32. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	204	1
33. Daman &Diu	1	0
34. Lakshadweep	0	0
35. Pondicherry	0	0
TOTAL :	774,740	6,304